

Amendment
USSN 09/732,768

REMARKS

Claims 1-5 are all the claims pending in the application.

Figure 1 has been labeled and resubmitted herewith.

In addition to amending claim 1 so that the counting and marking step and counting step are positively recited, all claims have been editorially amended for clarity.

Regarding paragraph 2 of the Office action, copies of EP 0336401 A2 and EO 0422795 A2 were submitted with the IDS filed December 11, 2000. Attached is a copy of the stamped filing receipt, noting that it specifically refers to the Form PTO 1449, search report and 3 references submitted. Enclosed are further copies for consideration by the examiner.

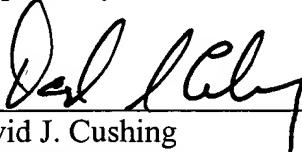
Consideration of these references is respectfully requested, in that the IDS and copies thereof were filed on December 11, 2000.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

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The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,



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